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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washinaton, **BC** 20515-4611

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April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro Chair Appropriations Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger Ranking Member Appropriations Committee U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I write to respectfully request \$2,757,969 in fiscal year 2023 funding for the Community Project, Increasing the Number and Diversity of Nursing Graduates and Equipping them for Success.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Northern Virginia Community College, located at 4001 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale, VA 22003.

This project would provide Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus (MEC) with \$2,757,969.00, to expand the growth of Nursing with the goal of increasing the number of registered nurses (RNs) entering the workforce annually, and to acquire computerized manikins and other technology to support or supplement required clinical training for nursing, respiratory therapy, and EMS students. This project would immediately increase the capacity of the nursing program and could yield an additional 50 graduates annually to the region's healthcare workforce. Therefore, helping to decrease the region's growing nursing shortage, which was exacerbated by the pandemic and turnover rates that have grown from 15 percent to 27 percent. This project would help close the racial and ethnic diversity gap that exists in the healthcare workforce by graduating more persons of color from the License Practical Nursing to Registered Nursing program. According to labor force statistics woman of color are disproportionately represented in LPN jobs compared to RNs and healthcare occupations in general (2x) and the labor force overall (5-6x). Finally, this project will help ensure the graduation of highly competent healthcare providers by securing the best learning resources for use during their training.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely

Gerald E. Connolly

Member of Congress

11th District, Virginia